28th January 1929]

Excise

Action taken on the report of the Opium Enquiry Committee, East Godavari district.

*1034 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have passed any orders on the report of the Opium Enquiry Committee, East Godavari district; and

(b) if so, whether the same would be placed on the Council table?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 566 at the meeting of the Council held on 12th October 1928.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I take it that the Government have not yet passed orders on the Opium Enquiry Committee's report?"

The hon. Mr S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"No, Sir."

Toddy and arrack shops in East Godavari.

*1035 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of shops for arrack and toddy in East Godavari in each of the years from 1920—27;

(b) the total consumption under each head for the same period;

(c) how many of these shops are within municipal areas;

(d) whether any of the municipalities requested the Government to remove these shops from within their limits; and

(e) whether the Government propose to comply with their request?

A.—(a) & (b) The number of arrack and toddy shops and the quantity of arrack consumed are as shown below:—

Year.		Arrack shops.	Toddy shops.	Consumption of arrack in proof gallons.
1919-20	...	276	383	80,803
1920-21	...	249	390	79,182
1921-22	...	168	336	58,224
1922-23	...	170	337	62,987
1923-24	...	245	381	73,219
1924-25	...	237	379	72,394
1925-26	...	242	360	71,292
1926-27	...	248	368	79,324
1927-28	...	245	368	78,871

The figures given for 1921-22 and 1922-23 exclude the figures for the Agency tracts of the district. The statistics relating to those tracts for the two years were included in the figures relating to the Agency division which existed in those years. Statistics relating to the consumption of toddy are not available.

(c) Arrack shops 11
Toddy shops 10

(d) & (e) It has not been possible to trace the receipt of any such representation.

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Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know the reason why the consumption was low in 1921–22 and 1922–23 ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If the hon. Member will read the two lines just below the figures given he will see that the figures for those years do not include the figures for the Agency tracts of the district. These were included under another category. Subsequently they were included for the years following."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are prepared to order the removal of arrack shops in the municipalities if the municipal councils concerned propose that step ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I have already said that no such proposals have come from the municipal councils. When proposals are received they will be considered."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether some municipal councils have not asked for the removal of toddy shops from their limits ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" There were I think one or two instances in which the municipal excise advisory committees recommended like that and orders were passed on them."

Medical

Alleged changes in the rules regarding L.M.P. course.

* 1036-A *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons for the promulgation of G.O. No. 1919, Public Health, dated 4th October 1927, to the effect, that even if the candidates for the Diploma of L.M.P. secured the required number of marks in the Board examination, they may be remanded after a scrutiny of the results of the class examination ;

(*b*) whether such a course is followed with regard to any other examination in the province ;

(*c*) whether four teachers in the Rayapuram Medical School have been asked to scrutinize the class marks of all the L.M.P. students in the province and to recommend candidates who may be declared to have passed ;

(*d*) whether the teacher members of the Board in the Rayapuram Medical School have condemned the Government Order and requested its withdrawal ;

(*e*) whether any, and if so, how many candidates have been declared to have failed in the examination because of deficiency in class marks only ; and

(*f*) whether the Surgeon-General recently proposed the abolition of the L.M.P. course and whether the Ministry turned it down, and if so for what reasons ?

A.—(*a*) The rules as they stood prior to the issue of the order referred to by the hon. Member required that every student should have passed all his class examinations before he could be permitted to appear for the Board examination. The Government considered that this restriction was a hardship to the students. They therefore decided to mitigate it ; but, in order to ensure